

Erin Click

JrCOSTEP – Summer 2005

Missouri Southern State University

Minnesota District Office – Bemidji Area IHS



I am majoring in Environmental Health at a University in Joplin, Missouri. Being a senior and graduating in December 2005, I was encouraged to apply for an internship with the U.S. Public Health Service. After doing so, I ended up having a rewarding and exciting summer in a place 850 miles away from home.

For my COSTEP, I traveled to Bemidji, Minnesota to assist an Environmental Health Specialist. I was located at the Minnesota District Office of the Indian Health Service. The office recognizes 34 tribes and assists approximately 93,000 Indian people. I completed a variety of tasks that will help prepare me for a future career.

I worked with four reservations in assuring health and safety in their communities. My duties included surveying restaurants, casinos, hotels, swimming pools, schools, playgrounds, and community centers. I also helped with a rabies clinic, updated a MSDS collection, and assisted in writing sanitation reports.

During my COSTEP, I was able to travel to many different areas of Minnesota and see some very interesting places. I was also able to meet a lot of new people and learn things that are not obtainable in a classroom setting. If you are interested in helping people, gaining practical experience, learning about different cultures, and being more confident in the environmental health or related field, I would definitely recommend being a COSTEP for the U.S. Public Health Service.